

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please cancel Figure 13A.

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 2 as herein amended and new claim 7 are pending and claims 3 – 6 are canceled. The rejections set forth in the Office Action have been overcome by amendment or are traversed by argument below.

Applicants thank the Examiner for her helpful comments regarding claim language, and have amended the pending claims in compliance therewith.

1. Rejection of drawings under 37 CFR § 1.83(a)

The Examiner objects to the drawings as filed under 37 CFR § 1.83(a) as failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims, and to the modifications to the drawings (specifically, Figure 13A) submitted with Applicants response to the previous Office Action.

Pursuant to the requirement in the Office Action, Applicants cancel herewith Figure 13A.

Applicants appreciate that the drawings objections contained in the Action either directly relate to Figure 13A (as set forth on paragraph 4), or to features recited in the claims that the Action asserts to be missing from Figure 13. Applicants have amended the pending claims to recite the structure set forth in Figure 13, and believe that these amendments overcome the objections to the drawings in the Action.

2. Priority

Applicants respectfully request clarification of the Examiner's comments with regard to priority. The Action asserts (on page 2) that this application may be a "continuation-in-part" of U.S. Serial No. 08/910,726 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,143,248, although the Examiner later concedes (on page 6) that the file wrapper of this application is unavailable.

This application is in fact a divisional of U.S. Serial No. 08/910,726, as asserted in the first paragraph on page 1 of the application. This status is the official Patent Office record on the filing receipt and on the PAIR website. Contrary to the assertion in the Action, this application is identical to the specification and certain of the claims of the earlier application (wherein the granted claims have been deleted and the claims renumbered pursuant to current rules of practice; see 37 C.F.R. §§1.51-1.53), other than the disputed Figure 13A which is discussed in detail above.

Applicants believe that they are in compliance with all relevant law and regulation to be entitled to the benefit of priority to both U.S. Serial No. 08/910,726 and parent provisional application 60/023,756. If the Examiner in charge of this application believes the facts to be otherwise, Applicants would greatly appreciate the Examiner explaining the circumstances supporting said contrary belief to their undersigned representative.

3. Rejections of claims 1 - 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 1 - 4 stand rejected under 25 U.S.C § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 2 to conform to the structure explicitly shown in Figure 13. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments overcome the asserted grounds of rejection, and request that the Examiner withdrawn these grounds of rejection.

CONCLUSIONS

Applicants believe that all grounds of rejection have been overcome by amendment, and request that the pending claims be passed to issue.

If Examiner Ludlow believes it to be helpful, she is invited to contact the undersigned representative by telephone at (312) 913-0001.

Respectfully submitted,
McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff

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By: 

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